have continued to express strong opposition to any supply of military equipment to Pakistan including supply of nuclear weapons delivery capability.

**Agreement signed between India and South Africa**

1118. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and South Africa have signed an agreemen envisaging cooperation in political trade, economic and cultural fields a well as in science and technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) An agreement to set up a Ministerial level Inter-Governmental Joint Commission between India and South Africa was initiated during the visit of H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa to India from November 24 to 28, 1994. Under the agreement, which will be formally signed during the forthcoming visit to India of the President of South Africa which is expected to be in January 1995, cooperation between the two countries is envisaged in political, trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation fields.

**Meeting of the American Federation of Indian Muslims**

1119. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'India West' of October 28, 1994 about the meeting of the American Federation of Muslims from India held in Los Angeles on October 21, 1994

(b) whether it is a fact that false and defamatory speeches were made there against the people and Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Charged' Affaires of the Indian Embassy in Washington, attended and addressed this conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Government's information, though there was some criticism of the treatment of minority communities in some of the speeches at the inaugural session of the convention, appreciation was also expressed of certain measures adopted to address their concerns.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Charged' Affairs was invited by the organisers to attend the inaugural session of the conference as a Special Guest. He spoke briefly on the occasion, referring to India's religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and emphasising the crucial importance of pluralism and secularism in India

**India's claim for membership in the UN security council**

1120. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India asked for inclusion of India in Security Council of UNO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other countries also claimed for the membership of the UNO Security Council;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) in this situation what action Government of India propose to take so that India will be included as a permanent member of UNO Security Council?